

~~SECRET~~

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)

DCID No. 7/1  
(New Series)

*get copy for S/O*

# DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 7/1

## HANDLING OF CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE

(Effective 7 December 1961)

Pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 7 and NSCID No. 1, the following duties, responsibilities and procedures are hereby established for the handling of critical intelligence.<sup>2</sup>

1. Critical intelligence shall be forwarded by the most rapid means available. Each message carrying such intelligence will carry a designator which shall be used only for critical intelligence. The designator shall be indicated by the Executive Agent for Communications.

2. Critical intelligence shall be delivered simultaneously to the National Indications Center (NIC), member agencies of the United States Intelligence Board (hereafter referred to as the "Intelligence Board"), and to such other recipients as the Director of Central Intelligence in consultation with the Intelligence Board may designate.

3. Critical intelligence relating to strategic advance warning of enemy attack and pertaining to those items listed in Annex A to this directive shall be given adequate communications precedence and rapid analytic handling to permit it to reach responsible action officials in Washington within ten minutes of the identification of the intelligence.

4. Critical intelligence relating to situations similar to those listed in Annex B to this directive and not relating to strategic advance warning of enemy attack shall also be given adequate communications precedence and rapid analytic handling to permit it to reach responsible action officials in Washington within ten minutes of the identification of the intelligence.

5. Each member agency of the Intelligence Community shall ensure that it has timely access to that critical intelligence relating to tactical early warning of enemy attack passed on command communications nets which is necessary for it to fulfill its own responsibilities in an attack situation.

6. The National Indications Center will revise Annexes A and B to this directive as the need arises and submit the revised annexes to the Intelligence Board for approval.

7. The members of the Intelligence Board will issue, through appropriate channels, guidance to all collection agencies concerning those situations believed likely to generate critical intelligence.

<sup>1</sup> This Directive supersedes DCID No. 7/1 (New Series), effective 26 June 1959, which in turn had superseded DCID No. 1/8 (New Series), dated 29 April 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Critical intelligence is information indicating a situation or pertaining to a situation which affects the security or interests of the United States to such an extent that it may require the immediate attention of the President.

20713  
190075

~~SECRET~~

COPY N°

242

~~SECRET~~

8. The Intelligence Board, in consultation with the Executive Agent for Communications, will monitor the system for the reporting of critical intelligence, use of the Critical Intelligence Designator, and related precedence and will initiate prompt action to reorient the system where necessary and to correct such abuses as may be discovered. The problems concerning operations of the Communications system will be referred to the Executive Agent for Communications for necessary action.

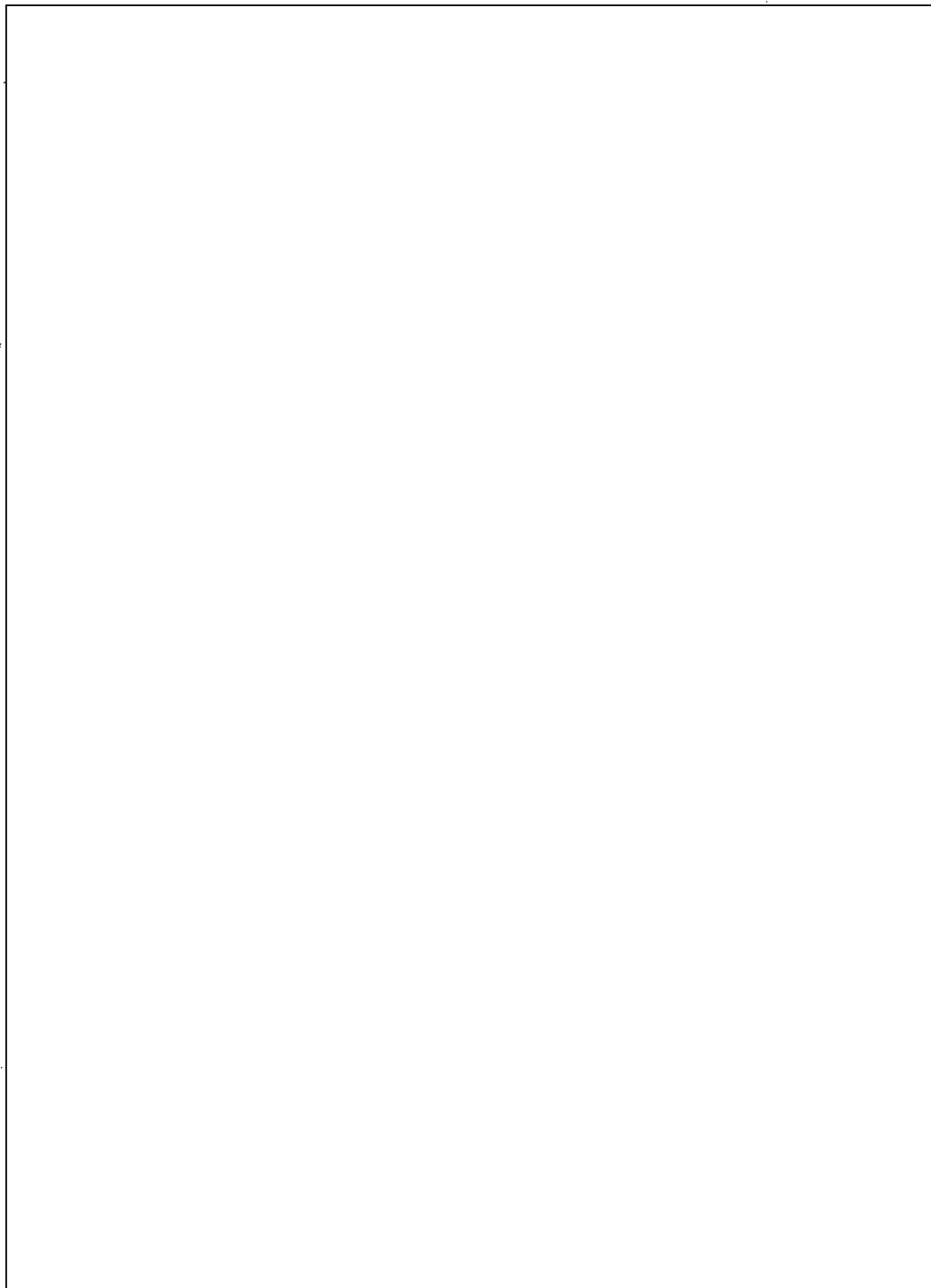
9. The members of the Intelligence Board shall each monitor their use of the system to ensure that reporting procedures, use of the Critical Intelligence Designator, and related precedence are in consonance with the concept of operation of the system.

10. To assist the Intelligence Board in carrying out and coordinating the above duties, responsibilities and procedures, the Critical Communications Committee is hereby established.

JOHN A. McCONE  
Director of Central Intelligence

~~SECRET~~

ANNEX A

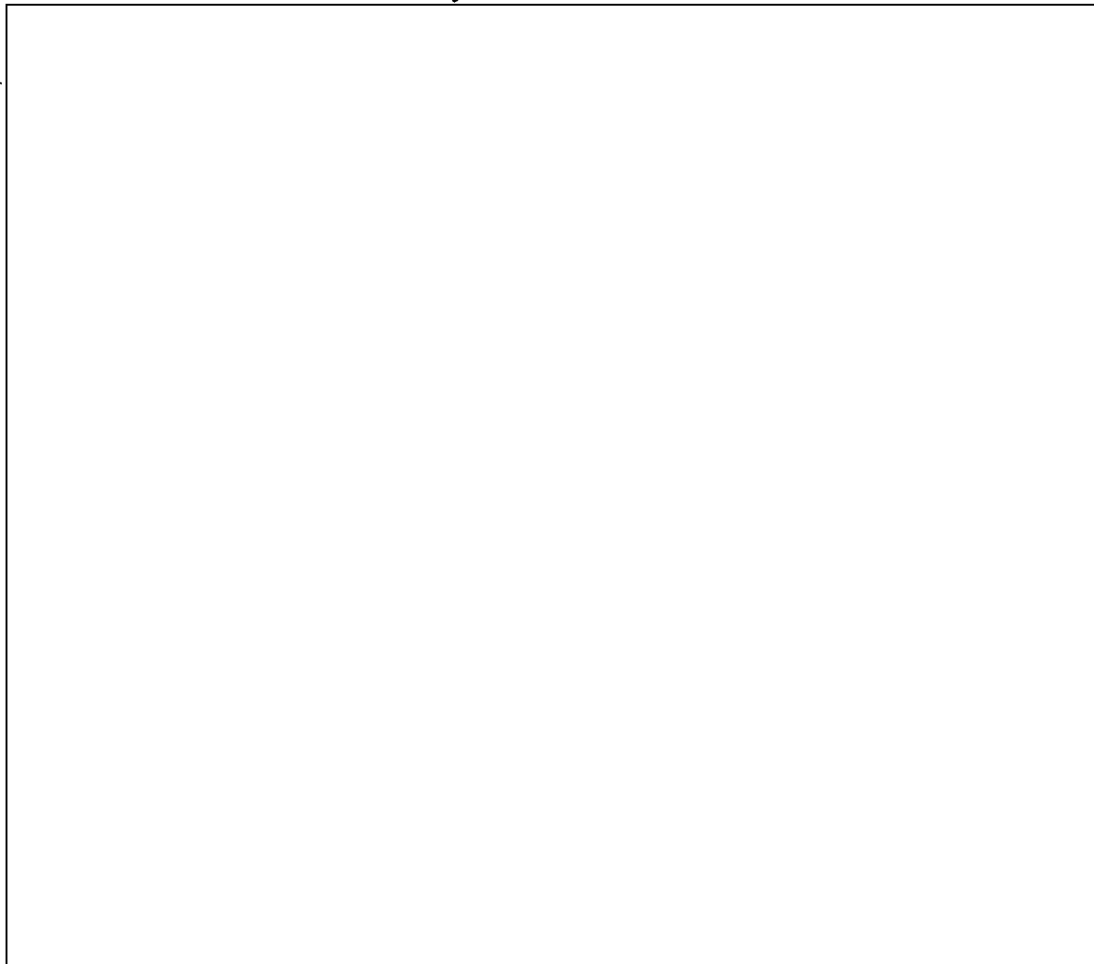


3

~~SECRET~~

COPY N° 242

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

ANNEX B

OTHER CRITICAL SITUATIONS

(The following list exemplifies the kinds of situations, intelligence of which is to be reported in the "CRITIC" system; this list is *illustrative*, not exhaustive.)

1. Imminent international hostilities, not involving Bloc aggression.
2. Large-scale attacks upon U.S. official installations.
3. Imminent armed revolution, civil war, coup, widespread sabotage, or major civil or military disturbances.
4. Assassinations of key civil or military leaders, including U.S. or allied officials.
5. Sudden or unannounced changes in top government leaders if change is inimical to U.S. interests.
6. Governmental decisions or actions which would materially jeopardize important U.S. national interests in the political or military spheres.
7. Any U.S. ally's decision to repudiate or disregard its international security agreements.
8. Severance of diplomatic relations.
9. Defection of a U.S. official or VIP.

5

~~SECRET~~

COPY N° 242